

Package ‘tximport’

October 16, 2018

Version 1.8.0

Title Import and summarize transcript-level estimates for transcript- and gene-level analysis

Description Imports transcript-level abundance, estimated counts and transcript lengths, and summarizes into matrices for use with downstream gene-level analysis packages. Average transcript length, weighted by sample-specific transcript abundance estimates, is provided as a matrix which can be used as an offset for different expression of gene-level counts.

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VignetteBuilder knitr

Imports utils

Suggests knitr, rmarkdown, testthat, tximportData, TxDb.Hsapiens.UCSC.hg19.knownGene, readr (>= 0.2.2), limma, edgeR, DESeq2 (>= 1.11.6), rhdf5, jsonlite

biocViews RNASeq, Transcription, GeneExpression, DataImport

RoxygenNote 6.0.1

NeedsCompilation no

git_url <https://git.bioconductor.org/packages/tximport>

git_branch RELEASE_3_7

git_last_commit cc91b83

git_last_commit_date 2018-04-30

Date/Publication 2018-10-15

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tximport	<i>Import transcript-level abundances and counts for transcript- and gene-level analysis packages</i>
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Description

tximport imports transcript-level estimates from various external software and optionally summarizes abundances, counts, and transcript lengths to the gene-level (default) or outputs transcript-level matrices (see txOut argument).

Usage

```
summarizeToGene(txi, tx2gene, ignoreTxVersion = FALSE,
  ignoreAfterBar = FALSE, countsFromAbundance = c("no", "scaledTPM",
  "lengthScaledTPM"))

tximport(files, type = c("none", "salmon", "sailfish", "kallisto", "rsem",
  "stringtie"), txIn = TRUE, txOut = FALSE, countsFromAbundance = c("no",
  "scaledTPM", "lengthScaledTPM"), tx2gene = NULL, varReduce = FALSE,
  dropInfReps = FALSE, ignoreTxVersion = FALSE, ignoreAfterBar = FALSE,
  geneIdCol, txIdCol, abundanceCol, countsCol, lengthCol, importer = NULL,
  existenceOptional = FALSE, readLength = 75)
```

Arguments

txi	list of matrices of transcript-level abundances, counts, and lengths produced by tximport, only used by summarizeToGene
tx2gene	a two-column data.frame linking transcript id (column 1) to gene id (column 2). the column names are not relevant, but this column order must be used. this argument is required for gene-level summarization for methods that provides transcript-level estimates only (kallisto, Salmon, Sailfish)
ignoreTxVersion	logical, whether to split the tx id on the '.' character to remove version information, for easier matching with the tx id in gene2tx (default FALSE)
ignoreAfterBar	logical, whether to split the tx id on the ' ' character (default FALSE)
countsFromAbundance	character, either "no" (default), "scaledTPM", or "lengthScaledTPM", for whether to generate estimated counts using abundance estimates scaled up to library size (scaledTPM) or additionally scaled using the average transcript length over samples and the library size (lengthScaledTPM). if using scaledTPM or lengthScaledTPM, then the counts are no longer correlated with average transcript length, and so the length offset matrix should not be used.
files	a character vector of filenames for the transcript-level abundances
type	character, the type of software used to generate the abundances. Options are "salmon", "sailfish", "kallisto", "rsem", "stringtie", or "none". This argument is used to autofill the arguments below (geneIdCol, etc.) "none" means that the user will specify these columns.
txIn	logical, whether the incoming files are transcript level (default TRUE)
txOut	logical, whether the function should just output transcript-level (default FALSE)

varReduce	whether to reduce per-sample inferential replicates information into a matrix of sample variances variance (default FALSE)
dropInfReps	whether to skip reading in inferential replicates (default FALSE)
geneIdCol	name of column with gene id. if missing, the gene2tx argument can be used
txIdCol	name of column with tx id
abundanceCol	name of column with abundances (e.g. TPM or FPKM)
countsCol	name of column with estimated counts
lengthCol	name of column with feature length information
importer	a function used to read in the files
existenceOptional	logical, should tximport not check if files exist before attempting import (default FALSE, meaning files must exist according to <code>file.exists</code>)
readLength	numeric, the read length used to calculate counts from StringTie's output of coverage. Default value (from StringTie) is 75. The formula used to calculate counts is: $\text{cov} * \text{transcript length} / \text{read length}$

Details

tximport will also load in information about inferential replicates – a list of matrices of the Gibbs samples from the posterior, or bootstrap replicates, per sample – if these data are available in the expected locations relative to the files, and if `txOut=TRUE`. The inferential replicates, stored in `infReps` in the output list, are on estimated counts, and therefore follow counts in the output list. By setting `varReduce=TRUE`, the inferential replicate matrices will be replaced by a single matrix with the sample variance per transcript and per sample. Inferential replicate information is not summarized to the gene level.

While tximport summarizes to the gene-level by default, the user can also perform the import and summarization steps manually, by specifying `txOut=TRUE` and then using the function `summarizeToGene`. Note however that this is equivalent to tximport with `txOut=FALSE` (the default).

Solutions to the error "tximport failed at summarizing to the gene-level":

1. provide a `tx2gene` data.frame linking transcripts to genes (more below)
2. avoid gene-level summarization by specifying `txOut=TRUE`
3. set `geneIdCol` to an appropriate column in the files

See `vignette('tximport')` for example code for generating a `tx2gene` data.frame from a `TxDb` object. Note that the keys and select functions used to create the `tx2gene` object are documented in the man page for [AnnotationDb-class](#) objects in the `AnnotationDbi` package (`TxDb` inherits from `AnnotationDb`). For further details on generating `TxDb` objects from various inputs see `vignette('GenomicFeatures')` from the `GenomicFeatures` package.

Value

a simple list containing matrices: `abundance`, `counts`, `length`. Another list element `'countsFromAbundance'` carries through the character argument used in the tximport call. If detected, and `txOut=TRUE`, inferential replicates for each sample will be imported and stored as a list of matrices, itself an element `infReps` in the returned list. If `varReduce=TRUE` the inferential replicates will be summarized according to the sample variance, and stored as a matrix `variance`. The `length` matrix contains the average transcript length for each gene which can be used as an offset for gene-level analysis.

References

Charlotte Sonesson, Michael I. Love, Mark D. Robinson (2015): Differential analyses for RNA-seq: transcript-level estimates improve gene-level inferences. F1000Research. <http://dx.doi.org/10.12688/f1000research.7563.1>

Examples

```
# load data for demonstrating tximport
# note that the vignette shows more examples
# including how to read in files quickly using the readr package

library(tximportData)
dir <- system.file("extdata", package="tximportData")
samples <- read.table(file.path(dir, "samples.txt"), header=TRUE)
files <- file.path(dir, "salmon", samples$run, "quant.sf.gz")
names(files) <- paste0("sample", 1:6)

# tx2gene links transcript IDs to gene IDs for summarization
tx2gene <- read.csv(file.path(dir, "tx2gene.gencode.v27.csv"))

txi <- tximport(files, type="salmon", tx2gene=tx2gene)
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